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LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you on behalf of my Government that the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom in association with those of other States co-operating with the Government of Kuwait commenced action on the evening of 16 January 1991 pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of resolution 678.

Military action initiated by the United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and France on 16 and 17 January is designed to achieve the liberation of Kuwait called for in the resolutions, and not the destruction, occupation or dismemberment of Iraq. The United Kingdom hopes these actions will be concluded as soon as possible consistent with the full implementation of resolution 660 and all subsequent relevant resolutions and with the restoration of international peace and security in the area.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY

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